

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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SOURCE: A Japanese journalist (C) close to SHORIKI Matsutaro. Appraisal of Content: 3

1. Cabinet Minister SHORIKI Matsutaro has some chance of succeeding HATOYAMA Ichiro as Prime Minister and could probably count on HATOYAMA's support. SHORIKI believes that MIKI Bukichi, member of the Liberal-Democratic Party's former Proxy Committee, would support him because of the long friendship between the two, and that MIKI's support would make the selection of SHORIKI almost certain. SHORIKI is determined not to buy the premiership because such an action would defeat the execution of his programs.
2. SHORIKI is determined, if he becomes Prime Minister, to streamline the structure of the Japanese Government and reduce the number of government officials. He would also emphasize the amendment of the disarmament clause of the Constitution.

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